

Rewald Ignored Advice by Consultants

Despite Many Qualified People, the Company Accomplished Little

By Charles Memminger
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WHAT do a part-time district court judge, a Milwaukee nightclub owner, a former city official and a retired Air Force pilot have in common?

They were among the many paid consultants to Ronald R. Rewald and his bankrupt company, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong.

Many of those Rewald attracted to his company are respected and well known in their fields. That is why it was surprising to many observers to find out that the company actually had made few substantial investments or launched any major projects.

With all of the talent Rewald had at his disposal, it is hard to believe that his company accomplished so little. People who worked with the company, however, have said that the consultants did do work and make recommendations, but that nothing ever came of them.

"Why didn't deals close?" asked one former consultant who did not want to be named. "Obviously some were unsuitable. But the ones that seemed viable, Ron would squelch at the end. A couple of times he said he had inside information that the investments were bad. Or the mythical group called the board of directors decided against it. Our impression was that the board consisted of

Ron and Sunny company president Sunlin Wong."

THE CORPORATION was formed in 1978, but when it was forced into bankruptcy three weeks ago, the court-appointed trustee found that most of the \$10 million to \$12 million investors put into the company was gone. Receipts showed that Rewald spent huge amounts of money to support his extravagant lifestyle.

Rewald was a collector. He surrounded himself with works of art, gun and knife collections and exotic cars. Last week, Rewald agreed to turn over all of his personal assets to trustee Thomas Hayes to assure that they would be protected and kept up.

Hayes spent the weekend taking an inventory of the items in-

side Rewald's Kuliouou house and the Mauna Luan apartment Rewald used as a private school for his children. Despite the somewhat bizarre and exotic nature of many of the items he found, Hayes said the net worth of the personal assets is "insignificant in terms of the bankruptcy."

Inside the house Hayes found three sets of knight's armor, a large blue rug on a ceiling with Rewald's coat of arms insignia, a set of gold-plated flatware and a gun collection that apparently belonged to retired Gen. Hunter Harris, former Air Force commander of the Pacific.

HAYES ESTIMATED items in the house are worth about \$100,000 and that all of the school equipment is worth less than

that. Eventually, Rewald's personal items will be auctioned to help pay back investors.

Hayes still is trying to find all of Rewald's exotic cars, especially a 1977 Excalibur worth about \$50,000. He said he has found most of the cars, four of them on the lot at MotorCars Hawaii, an exotic car dealership of which Rewald was half-owner. Also on the lot is a mobile home Rewald bought from actor Jack Lord for \$53,000.

Just as Rewald collected interesting pieces of art, he also seemed to "collect" consultants to his company. Rewald apparently rarely used the expertise of those around him. Retired Air Force Capt. Ned Avary testified in court that he traveled extensively in

South America looking for possible investments for the company. But despite his recommendations, he said he knew of no money that actually was invested.

HERE ARE SOME of the consultants of Rewald's company:

Gerald N.Y.C. Lam, a part-time District Court judge and attorney, Lam was one of several attorneys Rewald was associated with. Lam and his law partners, Robert Jinks and Timothy Holzer, were looking for office space in 1978 at the same time Rewald was moving his young company from the Amfac Building to the Grosvenor Center. Lam, Holzer and Jinks agreed to lease part of the 26th floor with Rewald and thus began an association that

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